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No. 41

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. GUTKNECHT].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 9, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable GIL GUTKNECHT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Jerry L. Spencer, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Dothan, AL, offered the following prayer:

Our kind and all powerful God, Thou Who are art sovereign over Thine own created universe, we thank You for being available to us and to every person in the vast human family.

We greet You this morning with great anticipation for Thy brilliant presence. In humility and awe we come before You with confidence in Your love for us and Your never-ending desire to meet us at the point of our daily needs. We pray specifically for each Representative, their family, and their staff.

Great God, because we are always learning and becoming, would You please convict us when we fail ethically or morally or spiritually. Grant us repentance, and give us wisdom and discernment and courage.

We thank You for the challenges and the opportunities of this new day. We receive this day as a personal gift from You. You not only made this day for us but You made us for this day. This is the first day of the rest of our life. It could be the last day of our life. So, God, make it the best day of our life.

Hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us rejoice and be glad as we assume our responsibilities and diligently discharge our duties.

Praise the Messiah, Thy beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JONES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 412. An act to approve a settlement agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District.

THE REVEREND DR. JERRY L. SPENCER

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to welcome to this body a good friend and distinguished clergyman from my congressional district. Dr. Jerry Spencer, pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church of Dothan, AL, is well known throughout the South for his dedication to God and for his active evangelism, which has taken him to such farflung places as Russia and India.

A native of Tennessee, a graduate of the University of Tennessee and the world's largest seminary, the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Spencer has pastored for the past 40 years while ministering in over 30 countries.

Dr. Spencer has recorded four albums, authored numerous books, and has penned articles appearing in many popular Christian periodicals. Furthermore, he is the past president of the National Conference of Southern Baptists and a current member of the executive board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since 1988, he has made Dothan, AL, his home, where he is a senior pastor of the nearly 3,000-member Ridgecrest Baptist Church, one of the South's fastest growing churches.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome my friend, Jerry Spencer, to the U.S. House of Representatives, and I join the entire House in thanking him for offering this morning's prayer for this esteemed body.

DO SOMETHING, CONGRESS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress we pledged to work together on issues that matter most to the American people. The Republican majority promised to work in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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